



**LAC
DMH**
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
MENTAL HEALTH

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT (AOT-LA)
OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

BACKGROUND

What is Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)?

- Assisted Outpatient Treatment, also known as Laura's Law, was initiated following the 2001 killing of Laura Wilcox by an individual suffering from severe mental illness.
- Former Assemblywoman Helen Thomson authored Assembly Bill 1421 establishing the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Demonstration Project Act of 2002, known as Laura's Law.

OVERVIEW

- Allows LAC DMH to serve seriously mentally ill persons at substantial risk of deterioration and/or detention under WIC5150 as a direct result from poor psychiatric treatment compliance.
 - Currently, LAC DMH operates a voluntary pilot program.
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OVERVIEW (CONT.)

- AOT eligible individuals are outreached in an effort to voluntarily engage them in Full Service Partnership (FSP) services.
 - If they refuse services, AOT-LA may petition the court to order the individual into psychiatric outpatient treatment, namely FSP.
 - AOT-LA Program expands inter-agency collaboration among courts, County Counsel, Public Defender, Patients' Rights, and local law enforcement.
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WHO CAN REFER?

In order to refer someone for AOT-LA services, the referring party must be:

- Co-habitant aged 18 or older
 - Close relative-Parent, sibling, spouse, child over age 18
 - Director of client's residential care facility
 - Hospital director
 - Licensed Mental Health Treatment Provider
 - Peace Officer
 - Parole Officer
 - Probation Officer
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ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR AOT-LA SERVICES

- 18 years of age or older
 - Seriously mentally ill
 - Unlikely to survive safely in the community without supervision
 - Have a history of non-compliance with treatment that has either
 - Two or more hospitalizations or incarcerations within the last 36 months; or
 - Within the last 48 months, one or more acts and/or attempts to cause serious physical harm to self and/or others
 - Is substantially deteriorating
 - Likely to result in grave disability or serious harm to self or others without treatment
 - Has failed to engage in available treatment
 - Benefit from AOT LA which is the least restrictive placement necessary to ensure the person's recovery and stability.
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AOT-LA CAPACITY AND SERVICES

- Extensive outreach and engagement for a minimum of 30 days
 - Screening and assessment
 - Linkage to psychiatric treatment, primarily FSP providers
 - May petition for court-ordered psychiatric treatment
 - Participation in court hearing and follow-up on court mandate
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REFERRAL INFORMATION

If you would like to refer someone for AOT-LA Services,
please contact:

AOTLAOE@dmh.lacounty.gov

or

(213) 738-2440

LINK TO REFERRAL FORM



Emergency Outreach Bureau

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